

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph spanning pages 3-4, between page 3, line 28, and page 4, line 3 of the specification with the following:

~~An Another embodiment of the method according to the invention is described in claim 2.~~ This embodiment addresses the protection of the first communication fragment of which the first address reference is omitted. A certain layer wanting to cryptographically protect its frames might generate a Message Integrity Code (MIC) for each frame. A MIC on an arbitrary string can be generated by using, for example, a block cipher in CBC-MAC mode (see Alfred J. Menezes, Paul C. van Oorschot, Scott A. Vanstone, Handbook of Applied Cryptography, p 353). In the case of frame protection, the input to the CBC-MAC will be the frame to be protected, possibly prefixed by a number indicating the length of the frame. After the MIC is determined it will be added to the frame payload before the frame is sent.

Replace the paragraph on page 4, between lines 17-19 of the specification with the following:

~~An Another~~ embodiment of the method according to the invention is described in claim 3. This embodiment has the advantage that only at one level in the communication layer cryptographic protection is added, which reduces the overhead.

Replace the paragraph on page 4, between lines 20-24 of the specification with the following:

~~An Another~~ embodiment of the method according to the invention is described in claim 4. This embodiment has the advantage that in an application ~~were where~~ each message is typically short enough to fit in one frame (i.e. at each level the message is smaller than the maximum allowed payload), the overhead of adding a MIC is minimized by performing the operation at the highest level possible, which is the initiating level.

Replace the paragraph on page 4, between lines 25-27 of the specification with the following:

~~An In another~~ embodiment of the method according to the

~~invention is described in claim 5. The~~, the duplicated information to be omitted is replaced by a shorter field indicating where the omitting data can be found.

Delete the paragraph on page 5, between lines 1-3 of the specification.